



Embracing the New Music Educator is a new advocacy program to mentor new music educators. Under the capable guidance of _____, this program invites all new music educators and those who still consider themselves to be new to the profession to four general meetings a year. The agendas are tailored to the needs of the participants.

The need for mentoring in music education is a must for all of those who believe in a balanced education. More often than not, the music educator is the only person assigned to the building that implements a music curriculum. During the school day, they teach in isolation. There is no one else to ask about materials or methods. Due to tight scheduling, there is hardly time for peer interaction at all, on any level about any topic. What about administration? Many school systems due to budget restraints have eliminated the fine arts coordinator positions. If such a position exists, it is unrealistic to expect one individual to be in all buildings with appropriate answers and resources in hand addressing everyone and every need. Monthly music staff meetings are often intimidating for the novice teacher. This time is filled with addressing the mechanics of the department, booking concert dates, ordering materials, scheduling, standard based report cards.....etc. In the eyes of the new teacher, this is definitely not the safe venue to ask the questions or expect the much needed pat on the back.

Those of us who consider ourselves to be seasoned teachers can thank those who have journeyed the road before us. It is only due to their experience, wisdom and willingness to help that we have achieved membership in such a rare category. That being said, this is an invitation to all of those who are seasoned music educators and to those who have survived the initial challenges of the profession to volunteer your time to this program. There is much need for clinics on choosing instrumental and choral repertoire and rehearsal techniques for those performing groups, speakers on best practices for general classroom music and materials.

Because of your outstanding dedication to music education, your name has been suggested as one of the Embracing the New Music Educator's mentors. Former students who are now young professionals, are trusting that you will share your time and talent to this program. Please fill out the form and mail it back in the stamped envelope provided.

Gratefully,